PROCEEDINGS

OF

PERRY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1955 - 1956

Property of
Elizabeth E. Spurgeon
710 Jaffee
Pinckneyville, Il 62274

FOREWORD

(Organization of Perry County Historical Society)

by

D. A. Purdy

The Perry County Historical Society was organized in June 1955, at a meeting in the Home of Mr. and Mrs. Finis Hilt, Tamaroa, after several preliminary meetings had been held in the Court House at Pinckneyville. The first suggestion that such an organization should be formed, came from Gale D.Hicks, Pinckneyville, who in the fall of 1954, talked the matter over with friends. Another 90 days passed before the first actual meeting of a small group from Du Quoin and Pinckneyville was called. Two additional meetings of this type were held, prior to the meeting when the Society became permanently organized.

The meeting at the Hilt residence was first planned as an out-door picnic style gathering, however inclement weather forced the activities inside. Gale Hicks who had been appointed temporary chairman of the preliminary meetings called the group to order, following a dinner served cafeteria style. Officers were elected and plans for historical research and similar type of activities, were studied with some assignments given out that night, to individuals and groups of the new Society.

Meetings the first summer were held in the grounds of the Du Quoin State Fair Association, south of Du Quoin. Large groups attended these meetings and the membership roster began to

swell, altho the Society was still in its embryo stages. The final outdoor meeting of the year was held in September on the lawn of the Galum Presbyterian Church, south of Pinckneyville.

Entering the fall and winter season, the organization now boasted of a membership of over 50 interested and active members. Meetings were held in schools in both Pinckneyville and Du Quoin. Several meetings centered around moving pictures and color slides shown by various authorities of historical and scenic data in Perry and adjoining counties. These included slides on Indian lore and archaeological findings in this section, by Irvin Peithman, Scientist, SIU, Carbondale; and by Lowell A. Dearinger of Mt. Vernon and Wm. H. Farley, Harrisburg, both of whom are authorities on history, and both of whom showed color slides and moving pictures of prominent scenic and historical locations of Southern Illinois. At other meetings, various types of history of Perry County was given on topics including old homes, Indian trails which later became trails traveled by the early settlers and other subjects.

It was determined that Perry County contained one or more places of historical interest and some which would justify the establishing of a highway historical marker. Altho one such marker had already been located in the extreme northwest corner of the county, a committee, named to investigate the matter, reported that the Du Quoin Female Seminary, 1853 to 1893, which had stood on what is commonly called Seminary Hill in Old Du Quoin, southeast of the present city of Du Quoin,

was in their opinion sufficiently of historical importance to justify a highway marker.

Application was immediately made to the Illinois State Historical Society, Springfield and in a remarkably short time, the marker was preparedand delivered ready for dedication ceremonies, details of which are given elsewhere in this publication. Other activities included three field tours, gathering of data on coal mines, railroading and a vast number of other activities, long since passed on but which were important in their periods.

In the second year of the Society, the membership list passed the 70 mark, meetings were generally held out of doors in warm weather and inside during the winter. Considerable difficulty has been experienced in finding convenient meeting places and a committee is presently investigating the possibility of a permanent meeting place, which may become available later this year. The location, if secured, would be permanent headquarters and the place for many of the Society's meetings, but not all of the meetings during the year, since it is planned to have meetings held monthly, in as many different locations of the county, as possible.

As the organization entered its third year, new officers were installed, plans for field trips are being made and additional historical research is outlined for activities by the various groups and individuals interested in the work. Membership is not confined to citizens of Perry County and to date we have three members residing some distance from

this part of the county,including one in Springfield,Ill., one in Denver, Colo. and one in British Columbia, Canada.

Anyone interested in locating, documenting and preserving historical facts and past occurences in our County of Perry, is urged to join and enter into the fascinating work. Others may join, there is no limit to membership, dues are $1.00 annually, payable in advance. If interested, mention it to any member or officer of the Society.

OFFICERS

Officers 1955-56

President.....J.Wesley Neville

Vice President.....Mrs. Finis Hilt

Secretary.....Gale D. Hicks

Treasurer.....Mrs.Elizabeth Spurgeon

Curator.....D.A.Purdy

Directors.....S.Dyer Campbell

Arch Voight

D.W.Hortin

Officers 1957

President.....Raymond E.Lee

Vice President.....Charles Mathews

Secretary.....Everett McMurray

Treasurer.....Mrs. Ethel Sanford

Curator.....D.A.Purdy

Directors.....J.Wesley Neville

Gale D.Hicks

Arch Voight

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

TAMAROA:

Mr. & Mrs. Finis Hilt
Marley Hampleman
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond E.Lee
Mrs. Idene Stockton

OUT OF COUNTY:

Mrs. Wm. H.Farley, Harrisburg,
Mrs.Chas.E.Knapp,Springfield,Ill.
Mrs. Louis P.Robert, Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Edward W.Milligan,Denver,Colo.
Mr.& Mrs.O.G.Rawson,E.St.Louis

HONORARY MEMBERS:

Irvin Peithman,Carbondale,Ill.
Wm.H.Farley,Harrisburg,Ill.
L.A.Deringer, Mt.Vernon,Ill.

DU QUOIN:

Mr. & Mrs. Roger Eaton
Mr. & Mrs. Judson E.Harriss
Mr. & Mrs. D.W.Hortin
Mrs. Lucy Kelley
Mrs. Alma T.Kimbro
Mrs. Lola Kirkpatrick
Mr. & Mrs.Harry Lancaster
Mrs. Paul LaRose
William B.Lee
Mrs. Emma Long
Mrs. Susan Morris
Mr. & Mrs. Everett McMurray
J.Wesley Neville
Mr. & Mrs. D.A.Purdy
Mrs. Ethel Sanford
Mrs. Mary E. Sharp
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Teabeau
Miss Leila Swafford
Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Varnum
Marion Varnum
Mr. & Mrs. Arch Voight
Mrs. Till Weinberg
Mrs. Nell Beck
Mrs. Lottie H.Kelly
Robert W.Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Werner
Jack Todaro

PINCKNEYVILLE:

Mrs. Elvis Bartle

Mr. & Mrs. S.Dyer Campbell

Mr. & Mrs.Theodore Croessmann

Ralph Dunn

Mrs. Jennie Jones

Mr. & Mrs. John E.Keene

Miss Grace Kimzey

Mrs.Opal Livingston

Mrs. Helen Nesbitt

Rev. & Mrs. Harold A.Schulz

Edward C.Timpner

Mr. & Mrs. Pona Eaton

Vernon VanZandt

Mrs. Wilma Biby

Mr. & Mrs. Noel Cooke

Mr. & Mrs. Karl C.Doerr

Mr. & Mrs. Gale D.Hicks

Miss Bonnie Kane

Mr. & Mrs. Frank W.Keith

Edward Kunz

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Mathews

Mr. & Mrs. Chas.B.Roe

Mrs. Elizabeth Spurgeon

Mrs. Etta R.Edwards

Mr. & Mrs. Roy Head

Mr.& Mrs. William F.Stewart

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I - NAME

This Organization shall be known as the Perry County Historical Society.

ARTICLE II - OBJECTS

The objects of the Society shall be the discovery, preservation, and dissemination of knowledge about the history of Perry County,Illinois, as follows:

1. To discover and collect any material which may help to establish or illustrate the history of the County, its exploration, settlement, development, and activities in peace and in war; its progress in population, wealth, education, arts, science, agriculture, manufactures, trade and transportation; printed material such as histories, genealogies, biographies, descriptions, gazetteers, directories, newspapers, pamphlets, catalogues, circulars, handbills, programs and posters; manuscript material such as letters, diaries, journals, memoranda, reminiscences, rosters, service records, account books, charts, surveys and field books; maps; and museum material such as pictures, photographs, paintings, portraits, scenes, Indian relics, and material objects illustrative of life, conditions, events and activities in the past or the present.

2. To provide for the preservation of such material and for its accessibility, as far as may be feasible, to all who wish to examine or study it; to cooperate with officials in

ensuring the preservation and accessibility of the records and archives of the County and of its cities, towns, villages and institutions; to conduct archaeological investigations of aboriginal or pioneer sites in the County; and to bring about the preservation of historic buildings, monuments, and markers.

3. To disseminate historical information and arouse interest in the past by publishing historical material in the newspapers or otherwise; by holding meetings with addresses, lectures, papers, and discussion; and by marking historic buildings, sites, and trails.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership shall be open to all persons who are interested in the objects of this organization, and who are willing to aid and assist in promoting and encouraging the same.

2. The Society shall be composed of active and honorary members. Active members shall include annual and life members.

3. Any person may be enrolled as an active member upon receipt by the Secretary of the first payment of dues.

4. The dues of annual members shall be one dollar ($1.00) per year, payable in advance for the following calendar year on the date of the annual meeting; or thereafter; provided however, that annual dues, whenever paid, cover the current calendar year following an annual meeting. The dues of life members shall be a single payment of twenty dollars ($20.00).

5. Members failing to pay their dues for one year after they become payable shall be dropped from the rolls one month after the mailing of a notice of such default.

6. Nonmembers may, in recognition of achievements or for services rendered to the society, be elected honorary members by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular meeting. Honorary members shall not be required to pay dues; they may attend all meetings of the society, but they shall not have the right to vote.

ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS

1. The officers of the society shall be a president, a vice-president, a secretary, curator, and a treasurer.

2. The officers shall be elected by ballot at the annual meeting each year and shall hold office for the following calendar year, beginning Jan. 1st. In case of a vacancy arising in any office, it may be filled for the un-expired term at any meeting of the society.

3. There shall be a board of directors composed of the officers and three other members elected at the same time and in the same manner as the officers, and who shall serve for the same calendar year. This board shall manage the affairs of the society, subject to such regulations and restrictions as may be prescribed by the society.

ARTICLE V - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

1. The president shall preside at all meetings of the society and of the board of directors. In case the president is absent at any meeting, the vice-president shall assume his duties.

2. The secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the society and of the board of directors, keep a roll of the members, collect the dues and transmit them to the treasurer,

conduct the correspondence of the society, give notice of all meetings, notify committees of their appointment, and make a report at the annual meeting upon the work of the society.

3. The Curator shall gather together and preserve and file the historical materials of the society. He shall have charge of the museum and library files of the society.

4. The treasurer shall have charge of all funds of the society, including dues, subscriptions and donations. He shall keep an account of the receipts and disbursements for the year and shall make an itemized report of the same at the annual meeting. He shall pay out the monies of the society only on the presentation of bills approved by the board of directors attested by the secretary.

ARTICLE VI - MEETINGS

1. The regular meetings of the society shall be held on the first Monday of each month.

2. The annual meeting shall be held on the first Monday in December.

3. The board of directors may change the date of any meeting provided one week's notice is given to all the members.

4. Special meetings may be called by direction of the president at any time.

5. One-third of the active members of the society shall constitute a quorum.

6. The board of directors shall hold meetings as needed, upon call of the president or any three members of the board, but at least once each quarter. Four members of the board of directors shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VII - COMMITTEES

1. The president shall appoint, with the approval of the board of directors, the following committees; (a) membership; (b) finance; (c) publicity, (d) program. These committees shall consist of three or five members, at the discretion of the president. The president shall also appoint other necessary committees.

ARTICLE VIII - REPOSITORY FOR COLLECTIONS

1. The board of directors shall make provision for room space in which the secretary and curator may store or file the historic material of the society; also in which material may be arranged for display and for inspection by members and other interested persons.

ARTICLE IX - AFFILIATION WITH STATE SOCIETY

1. If so decided by vote of the Society, it shall be enrolled as a member of the Illinois State Historical Society, paying necessary dues, and making necessary reports, and sending delegates to meetings of the State Historical Society when possible.

ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS

1. Amendments to this constitution may be proposed in writing filed with the secretary by any active member. The secretary shall submit the proposed amendments to all members in writing, and they may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular meeting, provided two weeks shall have elapsed after sending of the proposed amendment by the secretary.

FIELD TRIPS

ST. LOUIS - SHAWNEETOWN ROAD

by

Arch L. Voight

The First field trip of the Perry County Historical Society was held on May 22, 1955.

On that date about twenty five members and friends assembled at the farm home of Mr. Xelpho Murry, in the east portion of Paradise Prairie, approximately two and three-quarters miles east and one-half mile south of the Paradise Baptist Church, for the purpose of re-tracing the St. Louis-Shawneetown Road from Little Muddy River to Tamaroa.

Mr. Dyer Campbell, whose early home was in the area, knew the route of the Road and acted as guide.

Before describing the trip it might be well to give a little of the background history of this area and of the St. Louis-Shawneetown Road.

When Perry County was first organized it was rectangular in shape, and the eastern boundary of the County was the east line of Townships Range 1 West, this east line being also the Third Principal Meridian of the Government land surveys. This line lies one mile and three-quarters east of the Paradise Church. East of this line was Franklin County and Little Muddy River lay in Franklin County, Later, as Little Muddy was a natural dividing line, and also owing to the difficulty of those living west of Little Muddy in reaching the County Seat, Benton, and of handling mail across Little Muddy in the early

days, the County boundary line was moved east, and Little Muddy River made the dividing line.

The meeting place, therefore, at Mr. Murry's, while being approximately three-quarters of a mile west of Little Muddy, was originally a mile inside Franklin County.

From various sources, it appears that the St. Louis-Shawneetown Road had two branches in Franklin and Perry Counties. It seems that the original road from Shawneetown entered Franklin County east of Thompsonville, continued west to old Frankfort, to Plumfield, and thence to Mulkeytown. From Mulkeytown it went northwestwardly past the Silkwood Tavern or Halfway House, still standing, and crossed Little Muddy a short distance north of the present Illinois Central bridge, the road bridge being known as the Kirkpatrick Bridge. From this point it went northwestwardly through Paradise Prairie to a point south of Tamaroa, where it turned west. This route is shown on maps in the Perry County Clerk's office as "St. Louis-Shawneetown Road, 1830".

Benton was laid out and the first lots sold in 1839. It appears that sometime thereafter a new branch of the Shawneetown-St. Louis Road left the old route near Thompsonville, went to Benton and thence northwestwardly to a junction with the original road south of Tamaroa, crossing Little Muddy on the Galloway Bridge, and that this Benton route later became the main road. The portion between the Galloway Bridge location and Tamaroa was the portion retraced on the field trip.

When the group assembled at Mr. Murry's house, it was found that the ground between his house and Little Muddy was

somewhat wet, and part of the group stayed at the house while the others went to the bridge location.

The Galloway Bridge was located in the South-east Quarter of Section 20, Township 5 South, Range 1 East, about three-quarters of a mile south of the point where the Paradise Church - Sesser road crosses Little Muddy. At the bridge site the group found evidences of two bridges at slightly different locations, evidently one having replaced the other. From the bridge the old road went northwestwardly across Section 20, passing an elevation about three-quarters mile from the bridge, known as "Galloway Hill". Located on this hill had been the Galloway home, family cemetery, and the "Pleasant Shade" post-office. No buildings remain, but one grave headstone was found. This stone bore an inscription, but unfortunately no record of it was made during the trip.

The "Pleasant Shade" postoffice, then in Franklin County, was established in 1847, and operated until 1859. We have no information as to postmasters, but probably members of the Galloway family served in that capacity.

The Galloways were succeeded in occupancy of the farm by the Penwardens, and the "Galloway Hill" is also known as the "Penwarden Hill".

From this point the road travelled northwestwardly,passing on the northeast side on the Paradise blacktop near the northeast corner of Section 19, now occupied by Charles Ragland. This was the former home of Dyer Campbell, and the location of the Rodney postoffice.

The Rodney postoffice was established in 1898, operated until 1901, when it was closed by rural delivery. Mr. Samuel T. Campbell, father of Dyer Campbell, served as postmaster.

From this point the group traveled over existing roads, which in places occupy the original road location, northwestwardly across Section 18, 12 and 11, past the Winthrop school site, to the Kimzey Crossing blacktop. At various points the route of the old road, where the present road diverged from it, was pointed out and noted in the present fields and woods. At the intersection the group turned west on the blacktop, following the course of the old road to a point near Reese's Creek, where a detour was made to the site of the Williams School, and to the Williams Cemetery, where a stop was made to read the inscriptions and pay respect to the pioneers of the County buried therein.

The trip was then resumed northwestwardly along the route of the old road toward Tamaroa, where the group disbanded.

This was a very interesting and informative trip. Quite a number of the group were members of the Winthrop, Lee, Williams, and Eaton families, and many interesting events and details of family life in the early days were brought to mind and related during the trip.

SILKWOOD TAVERN-REID CEMETERY FIELD TOUR

by

D. A. Purdy

In September 1955 a second field tour was scheduled for Sunday afternoon with the ultimate destination centering around the famous Silkwood Homestead, 3/4 mile north of Mulkeytown, just across the Franklin county line. The homestead, now used as a residence, was formerly called the Silkwood Tavern, and was an overnight stop for travelers between Shawneetown and St. Louis.

Gathering at the entrance of the Du Quoin State Fair Association, 2 miles south of Du Quoin on U.S.Hgy. #51, some 22 car loads of members and their friends and guests headed south to the first brief stop in Old Du Quoin. Here was pointed out the site of the famous Du Quoin Female Seminary and the location along the highway where the Society was to later erect an Historical Highway Marker.

Continuing on across the Franklin county line on Ill. Rte 14, the caravan reached the Silkwood homestead and cars were parked in the side yard and along the road in front of the famous old landmark. The structure, well over 100 years of age, still stands in remarkable good condition, is owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Scott McGlasson. Mrs. McGlasson is a descendant of the original Basil Silkwood, pioneer of the early 1800s in this area and who built and operated the "tavern" for many years.

During the stop at this place, the guests were taken all thru the house, both the old and new portions, being shown in detail, by Mr. and Mrs. McGlasson. The older part of the house was constructed in the year 1827, some seven years before the building of the "Slave House" near Equality. The old siding, heavy timbers and beams and hand-hewen plaster-lath were among the many interesting features pointed out by the McGlassons.

In the side yard, Mrs. McGlasson displayed her famous Priscilla Hollyhocks. They are a special type of hollyhock, not ordinarily seen or grown in this part of the country. When viewed during the tour to this landmark, they were growing and blooming profusely altho in the fall of the year.

The story which makes the Priscilla Hollyhocks interesting, if not famous, is as follows:

In the early 1800s, the United States Army was driving the Cherokee Indians, natives of Eastern Tennessee and North Carolina, to new locations in what is now Arkansas and Oklahoma. For some unknown reason, the Army chose a route across the Ohio River and into Illinois, to cross thru what is now Union County. The plan was to go on to the Mississippi river and then to the southwest. The Army, together with several thousand of the Cherokees encamped near what is now Jonesboro, for a long period, during a severe winter spell. Basil Silkwood, a pioneer in this vicinity, then and himself a native of North Carolina, along with many others, went to a location near the present site of Jonesboro to see the Indians and watch the activities.

Here he found a girl, called Priscilla and who was a slave of the Indians, whom he had known in North Carolina, prior to moving to his home then located near Mulkeytown. He bargained to buy the girl, a quadroon, for the sum of $1,000, which he paid to the Indian chieftans in cash, and took the girl home with him. In her apron pocket she held a small handful of hollyhock seeds, of the special type now growing in the Silkwood yard. The seeds were planted and have grown every year since. Many guests on the tour were given seeds and that type of hollyhocks is seen in yards all over Perry County now, as a result of the girl Priscilla having brought them from North Carolina.

The story ends, in that the Quadroon girl, Priscilla, grew to womanhood and was accepted by the Whites in Mulkeytown. She later attended a church regularly in the village of Mulkeytown and there are older persons in that vicinity today, who still remember her. Being many years younger than Silkwood, she outlived him and his two wives. A small,brown sand-stone head marker, minus any inscription, indicates her burial place in the Silkwood lot, in the Reid cemetery, where Silkwood and his two wives are buried.

Continuing, the field trip was led by Mr. McGlasson to the Reid Cemetery, two miles to the northwest of the Silkwood homestead. Basil Silkwood's grave and those of his two wives, who were sisters, Mahala and Mariah, were pointed out, among other ancient and interesting graves of pioneers and former noted residents of the area.

The tour terminated at another location, the Greenwood cemetery, several miles further to the north, with Mr. McGlasson, leading and detailing history as it happened in that territory. While the tour was mainly in Franklin County, it was only a few miles from Perry County and those participating considered it well worth the while overall, altho primarily interested in local history of Perry County itself.

CEMETERIES

by

Arch L. Voight

A field trip was made on June 10, 1956, to a number of cemeteries in the west-central portion of Perry County.

A group of about eighteen members and friends met on the Pinckneyville square at 1:30 P.M., and proceeded westwardly under the guidance of Mr. Dyer Campbell.

The first stop was made at the Hopewell Cemetery, located in the east side of Section 19, Township 5 South, Range 3 West, about four miles west of Pinckneyville, and a short distance south of the Sparta road, Route 154.

The group was met here by Mr. Charles Knox, owner of adjacent property, who had with him the abstract which showed that 10 acres for the cemetery was conveyed by James S.Wilson and Lucinda Wilson to John Brown, Henry Brown and Isaac Graham, Trustees of Hopewell Presbyterian Church, on March 22, 1850.

The site is very fine, occupying a plateau-like hill top from which beautiful views of the surrounding country can be had.

The church building is gone. The group spent some time here, listening to accounts of the early days by Mr. Knox, examining the stones and several magnificent trees, and taking some pictures.

From Hopewell the group returned to Route 154, and travelled west two miles, then south to the Gerstenschlager family cemetery, located about three-quarters mile southeast of Galum Baptist Church. Oldest stone found was that of

Joseph Gerstenschlager, child who died February 6, 1854, aged 1 month, 19 days.

The group then returned to the main road and went west to the Galum Baptist Cemetery, where the earliest date found was 1853, and noted the occurence of nine markers of native stone in one row.

Next was the adjacent Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery, where the oldest stone found was dated 1864. This cemetery was noteworthy for its orderly spacing and arrangement of its six rows of monuments.

The group then continued west to a side road about half a mile east of the Cutler "Y", turned south to the Huggins Cemetery, a small cemetery with several noteworthy monuments.

The next stop was the Fulton Grove refreshment establishment. The day was pretty warm and the group consumed almost the entire stock of Cokes, Pepsi's, rootbeer and ice cream with great enjoyment among themselves, and with equal delight to the management, who expressed hope that we would come again to that area.

The group then headed north on State Aid Road No. 11, through Lost Prairie to Swanwick, the main thought being to visit the famous Swanwick house, as few, if any, knew of the Swanwick family cemetery. The house was closed and could be inspected only from the outside. Attention was then turned to the cemetery, a brush grown plot about two hundred yards northeast of the house. Surrounded by a wire fence and in a veritable thicket, six grave stones were found. After scraping five inscriptions were readable, four as follows:

Thomas Swanwick
Born Nov. 28, 1773, Died July 24, 1828.

William Thornthwaite Swanwick
Born Oct. 27, 1804, Died July 17, 1835.

Curtis C.Swanwick
Died Jan. 13, 1824
Aged 12 y. 4 mo. 23 d.

Mary Morrison, wife of Lewis Morrison,
Chester, England.
Born Nov. 16, 1810, Died March 9, 1838.

After much effort the inscription on the largest stone was made out as follows:

"Sacred to the memory of Robert Eveleigh
Taylor of Bolion-on-Morrs, Lanshire,
England. A physician of eminence in his
native town and a man beloved and res-
pected by all who knew him.
He died Sept. 12, 1827, aged 54 years."

The map of England shows the city of Bolton, in Lancashire, which is possibly the town named on the stone.

From the Swanwick house and cemetery the group drove easterly over side roads, passing the small Ragland plot and noting the Masonic emblem on the stone of Benjamin Ragland, Born 1802, Died 1864.

The last stop was made at the Guy cemetery, on road running south to Route 13, where the group saw the monuments of Richard Guy, Born July 15, 1787, died April 10, 1853, his wife Serena, who died Aug. 19, 1863, aged 77 yrs. 11 mos. and 4 days. A considerable number of monuments had been dislodged, possibly by cattle from adjoining fields to which it is open.

This fieldtrip was very interesting to all who participated.

PERRY COUNTY AND THE CIVIL WAR, 1860-1864

by

Raymond E. Lee

Before we can take up any noteworthy discussion of the part Perry County played in the Civil War we must necessarily look into the background of this area prior to 1860. We need to know something of the economy, the type of settlers, their religion and superstitions, and the way they thought and lived.

Perry County was first settled by poor whites coming in waves from Tennessee, Virginia, Kentucky, and there were even a few "clay and rosin eaters" from Georgia and the Carolinas. Their background was distinctly Southern with some traces in speech, ideas, and culture rather traceable to Elizabethan England. A number of these settlers were descendants of well to do Southerners who were forced out of the South as the vicious cotton, tobacco, and indigo economy drove people westward. These near-well to do's furnished what little moral and intellectual leadership there was.

These hardy pioneers built cabins, broke the prairies and started rapidly populating the area with their own large families. Except for woodland areas along the creeks and streams, much of Perry County was originally covered with tall prairie grass. "So tall it could be tied over the horse's mane as we rode from our cabin to the Post Office at the Isaac Lee Inn when I was a small boy, " said old Uncle Zeb Hampleman. The Indians customarily burned this grass to drive out game.

Farm tools were very primitive, but every family managed to have its patch of corn. Game was abundant, and even younger children were good hunters. Families seldom "went to market". Great grandfather Frederick Williams usually went to St. Louis about twice a year driving geese, turkeys, hogs, and cattle to the market there and returning with salt, sugar, coffee, tea, gunpowder and shot and other basic necessities for himself and his neighbors. The trip took about two weeks.

Religion was the fervent, emotional type interlaced with intolerance, ignorance, and superstition. The beloved Father Klocke was a prominent Catholic priest of the times. The Methodists followed the leadership and example of that erratic character who so plagued and annoyed Abraham Lincoln at New Salem, Peter Cartwright. The "Campbellites" or Disciples of Christ were led by disciples of Raccoon John Smith. The Mormans had a strong leader in the turncoat Baptist, John Brown. Brown was given a rough time by the Baptists in Perry County before he accompanied the Mormans from Nauvoo to Utah where he achieved both prominence and notoriety. There were a few Presbyterians, and no known Episcopalians. Nearly everyone else was some sort of Baptist. Religion was a deadly serious business. A Puritannical type of intolerance was prevalent which is hard to understand today. All faiths, however, had one thing in common. Since life was rough and rugged and often short, strong emphasis was placed on a beautiful hereafter where all the faithful would go.

The death rate among infants was high. The life span of adults was indeed brief. Medicine was primitive. Castor oil

and quinine and Indian herbs were almost the only drugs. Many so called "doctors" were ignorant fellows who knew less about treatment of disease than their patients. Bloodletting and the use of leeches still prevailed up to the 1860's in Perry County.

Prior to 1855 Washington and Richmond were far off from Perry County by stage coach or by horseback. Newspapers were scarce and few could read. People in Perry County were not too interested nor conscious of the terrible catastrophe with which the politicians were about to engulf the young nation. Nor were citizens of Perry County too much concerned with the "lunatic fringe", the John Browns of Harpers Ferry, the Harriet Beecher Stowes and others who were to do so much to bring on the awful struggle.

Perry County had no access to a river for transportation. and roads were virtually impassible during months of the year. But things changed rapidly after the roadroads came and communication and transportation increased, and politicians had greater access to the settlers. In Sept. 1850, Congress passed a land grant act signed by President Fillmore giving 2,595,053 acres to the I.C. Railroad to aid in building the road. The Illinois Central completed this road through Perry County in 1854.

Coal burning engines soon followed wood burners. Political and economic activity both increased tremenduously in Perry County. This political activity was perhaps climaxed so far as the Civil War was concerned in Perry County when Lincoln and Douglas passed through Perry County and the Lincoln and

Douglas debate was held at Jonesboro. On Sept. 16, 1858 following the debate both Douglas and Lincoln rode from Jonesboro to Tamaroa. Here Douglas left his private railroad car on the siding and drove via stagecoach to Benton where he delivered a political oration. Lincoln continued on from Tamaroa up to Central City where he attended the state fair in progress there.

It has been said that the Civil War could not have been fought without the railroads. Certainly the outcome might have been different. It is well known what a major part the Illinois Central played in moving supplies and troops down from Centralia, Tamaroa, Du Quoin, and near by areas to protect Cairo and other vital spots.

Thus Perry County found itself in the midst of a turmoil and it was not long in taking sides. In fact, it joined both sides. There were some slave holders and many sympathizers in the area, and there were others who actively supported the North as well as the "underground railroad" which ran through Perry County almost paralleling the new Illinois Central railroad.

The strongest pro-Southern organization in Perry County was the "Knights of the Golden Circle" reputedly led by Josh Teague. This group met and drilled regularly at the Hampleman home (who were relatives of Jefferson Davis) and at other locations in Paradise Prairie in the eastern part of the county.

In opposition to the "Golden Circle" there was the "Union League" of Tamaroa which was instrumental in causing Walter S.

Hawkes and five other Southern sympathizers of Tamaroa to be arrested, shipped as war prisoners and interred in the "American Bastille" in Washington until the war ended.

Feelings ran high, Preachers and churches split over the issues. Often father and son or brother and brother joined opposite sides. There was terror, confusion, fear, and lawlessness. There was young blood and vital energy, terribly misdirected. Citizens in Perry County were torn in their loyalties and interests. Like a giant monster directing puppets in a game for his own amusement, the Civil War forced people to take sides, to fight, to leave their homes and loved ones, and often to die for issues which intelligent leadership in Washington might have averted.

Complete listings of Perry County soldiers who fought for the North in the Civil War are available in "The History of Monroe, Randolph, and Perry County" (1883). Of the several hundred who left to fight for the South, there is no known complete record available.

OLD HOUSES OF HISTORICAL INTEREST IN TAMAROA, ILLINOIS AND VICINITY

by

Raymond E. Lee

To give accurate dates and to furnish substantiating data regarding the oldest houses in this vicinity is a task which this writer must necessarily leave to others. However, there is considerable information of possibly a half-true and half folklore nature which to my knowledge has never been put in writing. Some of this material I present here.

Before Tamaroa was incorporated as a village on May 14, 1855 there was a sizeable settlement here known as Appleton, a log cabin town extending from the Southern half of the present village and a short distance South. This settlement dates back to 1828. Of course most of these homes were small log cabin affairs, and have long since disappeared. A few homes, however, were eventually frame homes with framework made of hewed logs and roofed with clapboard shingles. One of these old houses was moved from Appleton many years ago to Lot 14, Block 9 in the present village and in 1946 was incorporated into the present Clover Farm Store building. The log sills and hewed framework in this building are still attached with old fashioned square or rectangular type hand made nails. Another house, a large one, the Providence White home was moved to its present site on the Kuhl estate, and is currently the Rountree residence.

The remodeled Kringer Funeral Home was once the pioneer

home of a Mr. Corgan and is to be remembered as the place in front of which James Vaughn was captured by Mr. Corgan who ran out in his stocking feet, seized and disarmed Vaughn as he was fleeing from his pursuers after having murdered William Watts, the constable, on Tamaroa's Main street. This happened in June 1881. Vaughn was hanged at Pinckneyville, June 16, 1882.

One of the oldest business buildings still standing is located just across the street on the corner north of the Marlow Drug Store, which is also a very ancient building. Nearly all of the business buildings and hotels were frame buildings which lined Tamaroa's Main street and the two streets paralleling the railroad. Most noteworthy of these buildings was Lincoln Hall where all important civic, religious, and political functions were held. It was in this hall that the fate of the location of the Southern Illinois Normal was decided by the trustees who were vested with power to select the site on Aug. 31, 1869. As the chief contender for the site Tamaroa offered its ideally centrally located position, a gift of $50,000.00 and 3100 acres. Carbondale offered more money and was reputedly favored by the politician-general John A.Logan. After several ballots and a considerable amount of debate and political maneuvoring in Lincoln Hall, Tamaroa lost to Carbondale on that memorable date.

Of course, the above mentioned buildings have all burned or been torn down. Tamaroa can boast of having had 4 coal mines, two flour mills, a cannery, a creamery, an apple-drying concern, two banks, and many other businesses of lesser

import. From 1840 until the early 1900's it was the chief trading center of an area having a radius of approximately 20 miles.

The Frederick Williams home, located 3 miles S.E. of Tamaroa is one of the old homes which can be accurately dated. Mr. Williams came from Kentucky to Illinois in 1827 at the age of 19 to look after lands entered earlier by his father, William Williams. Here he built a log cabin, married Bexy Orton in 1833, and proceeded to acquire approximately 1½ sections of land. Here he donated land and lumber for the Williams District School and land for the Williams cemetery where he and many of his descendants now lie at rest.

In 1855 Mr. Williams built the large brick home now occupied by the T. Zielinski family. This is a two-story brick house with a large fireplace both upstairs and down at both west and east ends. A part of the home, an extension which was originally the kitchen and dining room, has been torn down. This extension was actually completed several years after the main part of the house, but was apparently not so well built.

Most of the bricks for the Williams house were made on the farm, molded and baked in the old pasture just east of the Williams Cemetery and south of the original cabin built in 1827. Incidentally, this cabin stood until about 1916 before it was torn down. The writer's mother, Augusta Minnie Williams (Lee), was born in this cabin. Clay for the bricks was obtained about 3/4 mile south of the site just east of Reece's creek. The depressed circular areas where the clay was removed are still visible (1956) in the edge of the woods. Two log cabin

sites apparently set up by trappers or traders previous to the coming of Mr. Williams exist in the woods not far from the clay pits. Traces of the old Shawnee trail route are still visible in the south edge of the Williams cemetery just beyond the grave area.

Mr. Williams had need for his strong, well built home with its heavy oak doors during the Civil War. His father, William Williams, had owned slaves in Kentucky, but Mr. Williams disliked the idea, and because of his very outspoken ways became an enemy of such members of the Knights of the Golden Circle as Josh Teague, some of the Hamplemans, the Hawkes, and very probably some of the Lee's. These and other members of the local "knights" were particularly irritated by Mr. Williams who in reply to their boasting that they were all going to have nigger men to do their work and nigger gals for their personal amusement told them that "niggers cost money, and how are you poor whites going to own any niggers when you can't even afford a decent horse unless you steal it."

Consequently, this pioneer aristocrat, Mr. Williams, was called upon more than once to fight for his life, during which he displayed dauntless courage and did not hesitate to use his new pair of Smith and Wesson pistols. He was a sure shot and his enemies respected this ability. On one occasion when he was pursued by two "knights" as he was returning from Pinckneyville in a small two wheel cart, he turned up a narrow lane, got out, pulled out both his pistols, cocked them and told his enemies to "come on". Neither rider seemed to care for this idea upon realizing that Mr. Williams was armed and

ready. Consequently they rode off threatening to "get him" at a more convenient season.

An interesting tale, never completely verified nor disproved, has to do with hidden treasure. Frederick Williams, reportedly kept his gold buried during the Civil War for safekeeping in several places which were known to members of the immediate family. Several years before his death he suffered a severe paraletic stroke from which he never recovered the use of his limbs and was confined to a wheel chair. Family tradition has it that just before this stroke he had placed his gold in a new hiding place, the whereabouts of which he steadfastly refused to reveal till his death. To this day no one has ever reported finding this hidden cache.

About a mile S.E. of the Williams residence is located the old Henry Hampleman place which is still standing. Judge Hampleman, a Democrat, was a very prominent early figure who served quite ably as a county judge. He was entirely self trained.

Of distinct historical interest is the B.G.Roots place located 2 miles south of Tamaroa, and presently owned by Browning Robinson. The land was acquired in 1838 and 39 and the presently standing pioneer mansion (it was also an academy) was probably built some time after 1856.

Like Frederick Williams, Mr. Roots represented the intellectually and morally better class of pioneers. He was interested in public education, taught school, conducted his private "academy", and was County Supt. of Schools. His two

negroes he freed. They are now buried on the farm near the site of the cabin where they lived and assisted Mr. Roots in his part in the operation of the "underground railway" for runaway negroes. Mr. Roots was an important cog in the wheel of this work. The structure of this beautiful old home can better be seen than described. And a visit to this historically significant home will greatly add to the individual's understanding of local historical lore.

OLD HOMES OF PERRY COUNTY

Du Quoin Evening Call

Mrs. Lavina Howells Horn home located at 323 S.Division was built by William Jackson with brick he made at Sunfield in 1865.

James Winters home The Pines, was built in 1860. It is situated at 333 East North and contains a fine walnut staircase.

The Humphrey home at 322 N.Washington was built by Sam Mulvihill in 1870. John Franklin Humphrey bought it about 1894.

Chester Allen Keyes built his home at 136 N.Washington in 1854. Mr. Keyes placed half a millstone for the door steps at the front and the back door steps.

The Dry Home situated at 213 N.Washington St. It stands on the South half of Lots 9 and 10 Block 16 of Keyes and Metcalf's Addition. It was surveyed by I.E.Willis. Perry County had an official surveyor in 1857.

Stacey Homestead on North Washington at North St. is the house of seven gables. The lot was purchased in 1868 by Horatio Numes.

The Ray Linzee Sr. Home at 343 N.Washington was built by Warren E. Kingsbury, probably around 1877. It is an inviting place with large bay windows and winding stairway, so prevalent in that era.

The Old Blue Brick located at 325 Division about which information is scant. Who built it or when is not known. Dr. Reddick, negro, and family lived here. He sold it to Mrs. Belle Greenwood.

Old Beem Place located corner of Park and Peach was built by the druggest, Allen C.Brookings.

Old Ross Home at 373 E.Park St. was the home of S.J.Ross, who came from Fowler St. Laurence Co. N.Y. in the early 1880s.

The Val Berg Home at 328 S.Washington was originally built by George S.Smith in Old Du Quoin for a store building. It was moved the five miles to the new town by Isaac Adams. The rollers were made from logs and pulled by ten yoke of oxen.

The first brick home in Du Quoin was built by Goodall at 335 E. Park St. It had turrets around the roof like a fortress. Eli T. Blakelees built a frame front onto it in 1892.

Another home built after the Civil War was the Elihu Onstott place at 111 E. South St. In this home were interesting features such as a walnut circular staircase, tall floor length windows, iron and marble fireplaces, wide door sills and wide floor boards.

The Horn Home at 30 N.Washington was built about 1855 by Col. Abram Mitchell, I.C.R.R. Supt. Mr. Horn bought the home about 1872.

The Eddleman Home built by Thos. Jefferson Eddleman has been occupied by the Eddleman family for three and four generations.

EDUCATION IN PERRY COUNTY

by

J.Wesley Neville

Education in Perry County, as in other early counties, was rather meager. The first schools were taught by people under contract, at so much per pupil, to be paid for in wheat, pork, beeswax, deer skins, wool, and other articles at market price. The teacher "boarded round" among the scholars. The schools varied from two to three months in a term. The following description gives some idea of the school house of the earlier days. "Our school house was 18 X 20 feet, built of round logs, about 1833. The openings between the logs were closed with pieces of wood, split to the right thickness, and daubed with mud. This was called chinking. At one end was a fireplace, six feet wide, for burning wood. The fireplace was made of split logs, which were partially defended from the fire by a big slate stone and clay. The chimney was built of slate laid in mortar made by mixing wet clay and straw. On each corner of the chimney, at the top, was laid a large ball, composed of this mortar. These balls answered both for ornament and holding the pieces of the chimney in place. On the east side of the school house, the upper half of the fourth log from the bottom, was cut out for sixteen feet in length; the lower half of the log above this was cut in a similar manner; through this opening the light entered the building, except in cold and stormy weather. Above this opening was a long plank or board, suspended by leather hinges, to close the opening in

bad weather. When this opening was closed, some of the scholars saw their books by light that came through crevices in the walls, and others gathered about the fireplace and studied by light coming down the spacious chimney. Parallel with the lower edge of the opening in the wall, was placed a split log, which extended the whole length of the house, and was inserted into the space between the logs at each end. This half log was our writing desk. The seats were made of split logs,with holes bored into their lower side, into which pins, called bent legs, eight to 20 inches long, were driven. The benches were placed near the walls, leaving the central part of the floor vacant. On this vacant space classes stood to recite. There was no floor but the earth. This soon became smooth, so that walking around made little noise."

Among the early textbooks was Webster's "Blue-Back" speller. Sometimes this was the only textbook. Also taught was Reading, Writing, Ciphering, (Arithmetic), and Morals and Manners. Pile's Arithmetic was often used. The pupils studied aloud. Pens were made of goose quills and the ink was made of poke berries or indigo. Copperas was used to make the best ink. Corporal punishment was common. A teacher was often judged entirely by his ability to keep order or whip. The spelling bee was the great social event of the school. Often a neighboring school participated in this.

Many of the parents of the early school children could not read or write. This was especially true of the women, as it was not needed in those days.

As far as can be ascertained, the first school was taught in Perry County in 1825 by Robert Clark in the southwestern part of the county, near Denmark. John S.Haggard taught a school in Paradise Prairie in 1830, but no school house was erected there until 1833. Abraham Brayshaw taught a private school in the same year in the western part of Nine Mile Prairie. A school house was erected later in the year,about three and one-half miles south of Du Quoin. Mr. Beneldo taught in it. Near Pinckneyville the first school was taught in a log school house in 1831 near the west side of four mile prairie. In 1833 the sheriff leased the court house for school purposes for a short time. In Tamaroa Precinct the first school house was the Bland School House, built about 1832 and named after Grandfather Bland. It was four or five miles north of Tamaroa. The first teacher was Jacob Walker. In the Swanwick area the first school was in 1834 in a little cabin southwest of Swanwick. In 1835 John Fulton taught a school in his kitchen in the region of Swanwick. In the Cutler area the first school was on Section 16, Township Five South,Range Four West and taught by Miss Elvira Tilden. This was in 1827 or 1828. It was a neighborhood school and consisted of ten scholars. Each paid $2.00 as tuition.

As the population of the county increased and it became more settled, schools increased in number. The twelve townships of the county were divided into districts and numbered beginning with one and continuing until all districts were included. This caused confusion. Later a state law provided that the districts in each county were to be renumbered, no

two districts having the same number. Perry County began numbering in the Northeast township, numbering downward. Then the next row of townships, the next row, and finally the western row of townships. When I took office in 1943 there were seventy five elementary districts numbered two to eighty,with 73, 77, 78, and 79 being omitted.

Secondary schools developed in many of the towns. In Perry county there were five high schools, each operated by the elementary districts. In 1906 Du Quoin built a Township High School building after organizing all of Township Six South Range One West into a district. In 1917 Pinckneyville organized a Community High School district as a result of new legislation. In 1930-1931 they built a new school building and moved into it. In 1945 and 1946 Pinckneyville added much territory to its district so that today it extends 18 miles from the north line of Perry County to the south line. It also extends from the west side of the County to the west side of Township Five One or about 18 miles. About the same time Du Quoin added more territory to its district so that it comprises more than twice its original territory. Tamaroa organized a Community High School about 1946 and built a new building. Then Willisville and Cutler, the other two secondary schoolswhich had only three year high schools, combined with three others in Randolph and Jackson Counties and formed a Trico Community High School. They built the school house just across the Perry-Jackson line between Willisville and Campbell Hill.

The State of Illinois realized the fact that many schools had too few scholars and passed legislation permitting school surveys and school re-organization. As a result of surveys in Perry County in 1947 school consolidation began. As a result there are only a few districts not consolidated. These are: Sunfield (12) two rooms; Teague Grove (17), Nation (46) Beaucoup (49) 3 rooms; Wylie (44). All the other 75 elementary districts have been consolidated or have other districts added to them. These are numbered 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210. The high schools are: Pinckneyville 101, DuQuoin 102, Tamaroa 103. All the non-high territory of Perry County is now a part of some high school district.

Schools levy taxes to pay for their upkeep and expenses. In addition the State of Illinois helps by means of state-aid. This amounts to over $1,000,000 a year for Perry County. Some districts receive more state aid than the taxes bring in. Education of the children of Perry County is far different from what it was a century ago. Today most of the rural children ride to school, at least part way, in school buses. They attend for 9 months in well constructed and lighted school buildings. Most of them have access to an indoor play place or gymnasium. The schools serve school lunches at noon. Contrast that to a child walking 3 miles to school in the snow or mud, carrying a dinner pail which became frozen food by the time he reached school. Then he got to go only 3 months in a room where he nearly froze if he sat away from the fireplace. Truly education has changed greatly.

TAMAROA SCHOOL HISTORY

by

Mrs.Verda Hilt

The first school taught in Tamaroa Precinct was in Grandfather Bland's home 5 miles northeast of the present Village of Tamaroa and the teacher was Jacob Waler. Later a school house was built and named for Mr. Bland. A Methodist church was also held in this home and the first Sunday School was organized there in 1832. Later the building was moved and the Church and Sunday School was held in Benjamin Hammack's home.

It was about 1840 before people began to settle in what is now the Village of Tamaroa. The first school, a little shanty in the southwest part of town was also used for other purposes.

One of the greatest teachers of his time, B.G.Roots, was the first to wield the rod here over the young Americans and had among his pupils, Supreme Court Judge Allen and that gallant Chieftian, John A. Logan. Roots later started a boarding school in his home south of Tamaroa, which he taught for many years. Later teachers in this shanty school were Dr. Smith, who laid out the Village of Appleton, Peter Lee and William Eaton.

Miss Asemith Hold kept a boarding school in her home many years later, probably from 1880 to 1900. All these were subscription schools and tuition was about $2.50 per term per pupil.

In 1849 the first Odd Fellows Lodge was organized in this school building with but 4 members.

The first public free school in Tamaroa was taught in the second story of Millers Butcher shop about 1861 and was a term of three months taught by A.M. Anderson.

In 1862 a 2 room building was erected on the present school grounds. A negro was lynched on the grounds the same year. This building was blown over in 1871, placed back on its foundation and later burned.

In 1872 four rooms were erected with R.J. McElvain the First Superintendent. Later two more rooms were added. These rooms were moved to a farm and made into a residence and barn and are now in a ramshackled condition on the Dr. H.I.Stevens farm. The present grade school building was erected in 1905.

Prior to 1829 and 1830, children in Paradise Precinct attended school in Du Quoin Precinct with Obediah West as teacher.

The first school in Paradise Precinct was taught by John S.Haggard, A Mr. Hagaman taught a school there in 1830 and teaching was in the teacher's homes. No building was erected until 1838 and the first teacher in the new building was R.P. Paramore.

DU QUOIN FEMALE SEMINARY

Dr. John W.Allen

(From Article "It happened in Southern Illinois")
(based on address made at dedication May 27,1956)
(and published in various newspapers June 7,1956)

This seminary, according to a statement in the catalog of 1866, was the first institution of higher learning for females which was successfully established by a Protestant group in the section of the state generally known as Egypt.

People living in the vicinity of the old village of Du Quoin about 1850 had difficulty in obtaining a trained and competent teacher, little local talent being available. They accordingly applied to an education society in the East for help. It was the custom for these eastern groups to sent out teachers somewhat as educational missionaries, even paying part of their expenses.

In response to the request of the local citizens a well qualified and competent young lady named Eliza Paine was sent from Massachusetts. She arrived in time to begin the teaching of a school term at the "district school" in the summer of 1852.

Miss Paine's achievements must have provided encouragement of those interested in education. Anyway, a group of 72 persons met in August, 1853, signed an "Articles of Compact," and pledged $1134, then considered a substantial amount, toward the establishment of a female seminary. Those signing the articles met soon and elected a board of directors consisting of 18 members.

On November 18, 1854, this board of directors selected Miss Paine, who had been conducting a private school after her first year in the vicinity, to serve as principal of the new school. On February 28, 1855, the Du Quoin Female Seminary was chartered by the state legislature. It was under the supervision of the Presbyterian Church. On the following April 28 the board bought six acres of land on the hill southeast of the marker, paying $600 for it. On June 16 the cornerstone of a new building was laid.

Shortly after, Miss Paine, who had been appointed agent for the board, departed for the east to carry "this enterprise directly to the hearts of the Christians there." The results of her trip must have been pleasing since she returned with cash and pledges totalling more than $3,000. This trip also resulted in the later purchase of an additional six acres of ground and its donation to the school by W. S. Gilman of New York. Contributions continued to come from the region where Miss Paine had worked until they totalled $14,000.

After Miss Paine's return, the work of building was taken up with vigor. The outlook for the new educational venture appeared rosy. The financial depression of 1857, however, changed the situation. Payments on pledges decreased,creditors began to press for settlement of accounts, and it became necessary to discontinue the work. In 1859 the property of the school was assigned for the benefit of the creditors. Apparently the project was doomed to early failure.

However, the financial affairs of the school shortly took a better turn. Some of the creditors agreed to scale down their

claims. Mrs. P.C.Morrison of Collinsville completed the rescue. She made a gift of $1,000 to the school and loaned it another $1,000 that later was made a gift. She also gave a special gift of $500. The board of directors was thereby enabled to satisfy all claims and to become debt free. Other contributions continued to be made until a total of $34,000 had been received before the end of 1866. All of this enabled the board to complete the central section of their projected building. The outlook for the school accordingly became brighter.

Some of the early rules and practices of the school are interesting. Pupils might enter at any time if they were capable of taking up the work of established classes. It was desirable, however, that they enter at the beginning of the school year or after the winter vacation. Regular examinations were held in each class at the end of the term. At the end of the year a general examination was held, and the public was invited to be present and was permitted to question the pupils.

Each person was required to attend at least one religious service regularly held in the school. No calls were to be made or received on Sundays and the "usual walks" were not to be taken. Pupils were not to arrive at or leave the school on Sundays.

It has "ever been the object of the Institution to place the expenses at the lowest possible point." These costs for each ten-weeks term were:

Preparatory Department	$4.00
Higher Department	6.00
Use of Piano	2.00

Incidental Expenses	.50
Board per week	3.00
Fuel furnished in room	.50

Drawing, painting and language extra.

Rooms were furnished with bedstead, tables, chairs and stoves. The girls were asked to provide their own bedding. Where this could not be conveniently done the need would be "supplied at a slight charge."

DEDICATION OF HIGHWAY MARKER - DU QUOIN FEMALE SEMINARY

May 27, 1956.

(From Du Quoin Evening Call)
(of May 28,1956)

100 See Seven Former Students Unveil Marker at Site of Du Quoin Female Seminary, Fore-Runner of High Schools

Approximately 100 southern Illinoisans participated Sunday in the dedication of an Illinois State Historical Society marker on the location of the Du Quoin Female Seminary on Illinois Route 14, five miles southeast of this city.

Dr. John W. Allen, Carbondale, president of the state society, noted that it was the only church-sponsored female seminary in southern Illinois, and pointed up it's many contributions to society.

Dr. Louis Aaron, Harrisburg, president of the Southern Illinois Society, called the dedication "a salute to women-and really a salute to all of us."

Dr. Oren D. McClure, superintendent of Du Quoin Community Schools, told the group that the seminary was a fore-runner of our present-day high schools.

Seven former students of the seminary and the co-educational academy which was later operated in the same building, were special guests at the dedication.

Introduced by J. Wesley Neville of Du Quoin, president of the sponsoring Perry County Historical Society, they included:

Mrs. Ada Johnson, Mrs. Susan Morris and Mrs. May Baker,

Du Quoin; Mrs. W. O. Edwards and Mrs. Carrie Davison, Pinckneyville; Mrs. Nettie Dixon, Springfield; and George E. Smith, Pana, father of Mrs. Lester Heape, who formerly resided in Tamaroa.

The seven unveiled the marker under the supervision of Arch Voight and Everett McMurray, Du Quoin, members of the county historical group.

Made by inmates of Pontiac State Prison and erected by the State Department of Highways, the marker bears the inscription:

> "Du Quoin Female Seminary - On this hill to the east was the Du Quoin Female Seminary, founded by the Boston Ladies Society for the promotion of Christian education. Later, as Du Quoin Academy, it was co-educational. The three-story brick building, then an orphanage, was closed in 1893. It burned in October 1898."

Dr. Allen, Southern Illinois University historian and authority, author of numerous historical articles published in many southern Illinois newspapers, including the Du Quoin Evening Call, noted that the seminary was established 103 years ago and Miss Eliza Paine of South Headley, Massachusetts, was its first teacher.

Miss Paine came here in 1852 and taught one year in a local school before the seminary was established, Dr. Allen said.

He noted that 72 signers compiled the seminary's "Article of Compact" and $1,007 was subscribed for the institution, thus making it the first church-sponsored female seminary in southern Illinois.

A depression and difficult years around 1858 and 1859 forced

seminary officials to find new ways to finance the institution. A Mrs. P.C.Morrison of Collinsville gave $1000 and later loaned a similar amount. The fund grew until some $32,000 was received from 14 states.

During examination periods at the seminary, it was the practice to have townspeople come in and ask questions, Allen related.

In concluding, the prominent educator reminded: "It is better to build school-houses for youth than prisons for adults".

Dr. Aaron spoke briefly of prominent women of early Saline county history and declared that, just as in bygone days, "women of today are still accepting their responsibilities".

Dr. McClure, noting that the Old Du Quoin school was a forerunner of today's high schools, discussed the growth of the common tax-supported schools. He listed nine factors that helped promote the rise of the common school:

The Revolutionary War, Sunday Schools, school societies, the rise of factories, the growth of cities, the rise of labor unions, the rise of the west, the extension of suffrage and the growth of liberalism.

Reverend J.T.Hall, pastor of Old Du Quoin Baptist Church, brought the invocation.

WOODSIDE FORD

by

Edward Timpner

Woodside Ford was located three and one half miles south of Pinckneyville in Township 6 South Range 2 west of 3rd Principal Meridian Perry County, Illinois. On the south east 1/2 line of section 6 joining the north east 1/2 line of section 7.

120 acres on south side running east and west of the ford was granted in 1828 to Samuel Woodside's father after whom the ford was named.

The road ran northeast and south. I have been told that Hawkins Ozburn was a mail carrier over the route before he settled in Perry County. This ford, was the only ford crossing Beaucoup Creek that had a solid smooth rock shallow bottom. The north bank was about eleven feet high. The south side had a bank about thirty feet high with a slanting bank far above high water. On the west side, as we crossed the ford, was called the deep hole about 1/4 mile long which gradually sloped to a depth of sixteen feet, (all smooth rock bottom), clear and clean.

In my youth some people did their washing here. When there was a drouth, people drove their cattle to drink, others hauled water. Thrashers hauled water for their engines miles away. They could drive in, turn around, and let the water run into their tanks.

On Sundays men and boys would bathe and some would swim their horses. On the east side of the ford water would be from

5 to 12 inches deep about 1/4 mile distance. Children enjoy wading and men would drive back and forth in their buggies to see the water splash and wash their buggies. Where they turned at the east end, were the riffles. These riffles were formed by boulders averaging about 3½ feet wide and 6 feet long about one to two feet apart. There were three rows across the creek about two feet high. Here one could cross without getting a wet shoe when water was 14 inches deep at the ford.

South of the riffles about 200 yards was an Indian Mound and an Indian Village. I could tell by the small heape of rocks where the wigwams were located. Here and across the bottom on south side of Harris Lake I found many Indian rocks.

On the south side of the ford running east is where the picnic grounds were located. The first picnic I recall was in 1881. It was gotten up by a group of German Speaking and American Boys. At that time my father had a woods pasture; the German speaking group were in the pasture and danced round the old mill race and the American group were across the fence.

Here Adam Knapp and Eliza Epplin met and were married within a year. Many Pinckneyville and Du Quoin young people spent pleasant hours here. In 1840 to 1860 there were four homes and a horse power mill within 1/4 mile of the ford. About 1904 W.S. Wilson and Rube Rushing built a nice summer home here using it a number of years.

After the stock law was voted in,the woods grew up in brush and briers. There were many beautiful flowers along the creek bank and flowering trees. The black and Red Haw, the Plum, the Red Bud, the Crabapple, the Papaw, the wild Cherry and Mulberry

have vanished and last of all the strip mines have devoured the good earth.

They don't build barns like this anymore

By Scott Hamilton
Southern Illinoisan Correspondent

Nowadays when a farmer builds a barn it's usually a metal-sided pole barn or a pre-fabricated steel structure. Due to changing agricultural practices and economic changes the classic wooden barn, so prevalent a generation ago, is slowing disappearing from the countryside. There are some barns, however, built at the turn of the century, that have been preserved and are still in use today.

An outstanding example of the barn-builders craft is located on the William Timpner Jr. farm near Pinckneyville. The Timpner farm has been in the family since 1868 and is registered by the State of Illinois as a Centennial Farm. Timpner's barn is a massive structure, probably one of the largest in Southern Illinois. The barn is clearly visible from Highway 13 about four miles south of Pinckneyville. As you drive up the lane to Timpner's farm, this wooden giant of a barn rises above the machine sheds and grain bins, and dominates the barnyard.

When Edward Timpner built this barn, he designed it to serve the needs of his herd of dairy cattle. Construction of the barn began in 1916 but was interrupted by shortages of material caused by World War I. The barn was finally completed in 1918. It was during this interruption that the barn was damaged by a storm that almost toppled it.According to Timpner Jr., the foundations and walls were in place but construction on the roof had not yet begun when the storm hit. "The walls were damaged and the builders had to install large steel rods across the barn to pull the sides back together and reinforce them."

Once the walls were repaired the huge roof was ready to install. "All the beams were made of laminated oak one-by-fours and were formed in a jig to give them the curved shape," says Timpner. "The curved roof was put together a lot like you would build the hull of a boat." Timpner says that all the wood used in the barn was cut locally. "All the wood came right off the farm and was cut at the local sawmill. The concrete blocks used in the lower walls were made at the Ritter Block Works in Pinckneyville."

The barn was built by local men; the crew consisted of Wren Atkins, Penny Rule, Rueben Bahre and Ritter Blacke, among others.

The barn is 36 feet wide by 96 feet long but those dimensions do not indicate the size of the huge loft which makes up approximately [illegible] percent of the barn itself. Climbing the steps into the loft is like entering a cathedral. The oak beams arch upward and meet at the peak of the roof almost forty feet above the loft floor. Timpner says, "The reason the loft was made [illegible] large was to store loose hay. My grandfather put as many as 70 wagon-loads of hay in the loft."

There were no mechanical balers at that time and loose hay was hauled up to the loft via wooden slings. The ends of the sling were attached to a long rope that ran up and over a pulley attached to the ridge pole of the barn, then across the barn and out the opposite side where it was attached to a team of horses. The horses would hoist the sling up to the ridge where it would engage a roller on a metal track that would carry the sling into the barn through the large hay doors. When the load reached the spot where the hay was to be dropped, a tug on the trip rope would open the bottom of the sling and drop the hay. The rope and pulley system are still hanging from the rafters of Timpner's barn although only baled hay is stored there today.

One of the most impressive features of Timpner's barn is the huge roof which covers the loft area. When the barn was originally constructed, the roof was covered with wooden shingles, still visible from the inside of the barn loft. "The roof was so large that it took an entire summer just to shingle it," says Timpner. "When we recovered it with asphalt shingles some years ago it added nine tons of weight to the roof."

Thirty years after the barn was built, the weight of the huge roof began pushing the walls apart causing the roof to begin sagging in the middle. "When it started sagging we had to tighten the steel rods that hold the walls together," says Timpner. "We also installed some heavy wooden beams for extra support. By doing that we were able to stop the sagging but we never could get the roof to go back up." The sag in the middle of the roof is still noticeable and gives the old barn a swayback look.

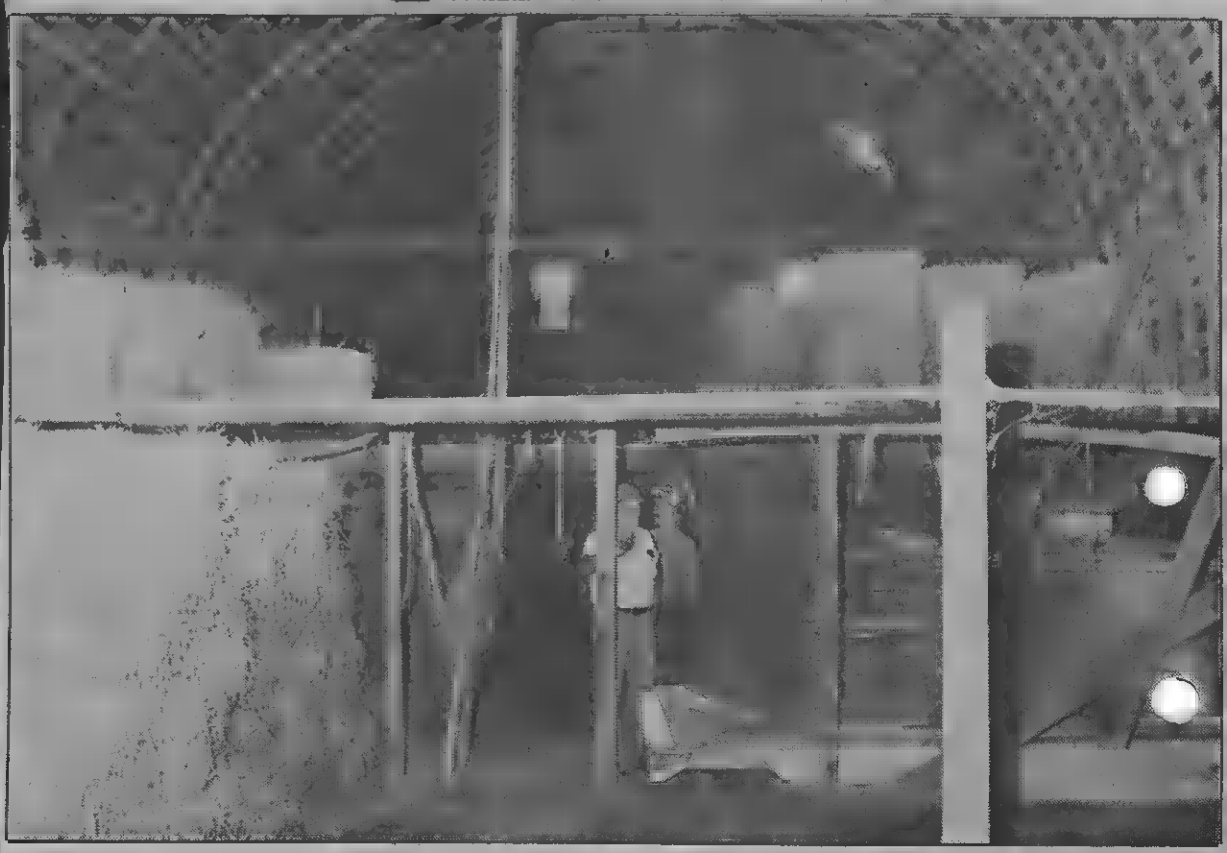
When the Timpner family was still in the dairy business the ground floor of the barn housed the herd of cattle. "The south end of the barn had stalls for fourteen dairy cattle and the calves and bulls were kept in the middle. The horses were kept in the north end where there were stalls for eight of them," says Timpner. That much livestock produced a lot of manure so to help with the cleaning, a cart suspended on a metal track ran the length of the stalls. When the cart was filled it was run outdoors where the manure was dumped on a pile to be used as fertilizer later. Automatic waterers provided the cattle with a continuous supply of fresh water.

The barn wasn't always the scene of hard work, occasionally things got pretty lively upstairs. "A few years ago we used to hold barn dances in the loft," says Timpner. As many as 60 people would find room to dance and kick up their heels in Timpner's hay loft. Even though the dancers may have "raised the roof," there is still a noticeable sag in the ridgeline of the barn.

The only damage, except when it was being built, that the barn has sustained occurred a few years ago when a violent storm blew one of the ventilators off the roof. The manufacture of the ventilators is no longer in business so Timpner had to have a new ventilator custom-built. "We took the ventilator to a tinsmith in Murphysboro and he built a new one off the damaged ventilator," says Timpner. "It cost a thousand dollars to replace it so I was just going to close up the hole in the roof," he says, "but when our insurance company agreed to cover the damage I went ahead and replaced the ventilator."

Today Timpner's barn is used to house beef cattle instead of a dairy herd. The milking stalls are gone and there is no longer any use for the horse stalls. The loft is filled with square bales instead of loose hay and the old cinder block silo that used to hold silage for the cattle stands empty. Even though times have changed on the Timpner farm the old barn still stands as a monument to the skill and ability of those who built it.

Southern Illinois
Wednesday, Aug. 28, 1985



TODAY photo by GLEN HAMILTO

W[illegible] of a [illegible] William Timpner Jr., top,of rural Pinckneyville with barn built in 1918. Timpner shows visitor the angles of roof's structure

THE KIMZEY FARM

by

Mrs.Rosamond Kimzey Forester

I have been asked by the Perry County Historical Society, to write a short history of Locust Hill, or the Roots and Kimzey Farm, in later years known as the Kimzey Farm. It is now owned and occupied by the Browning Robinson's. I have wished many times, since I was asked to do this, that my brother, Walter R.Kimzey, was here to write it. He would take a keen delight in doing it, and could tell many of the facts and dates, which I do not recall. In writing the history of this place, I shall have to bring in much of the life of my Grandfather, B.G.Roots, who first settled there.

He was born in Fabius, N.Y., April 20th, 1811. He married Martha S.Holt of Willington, Tolland County, Conn., Oct. 20, 1834. They moved to Illinois in the year 1838, that he might take a position as Civil Engineer upon one of the many railroads that the State was trying to build. He was engaged most of the time as civil engineer or in teaching. Having, in early life, read law until he was prepared for admission to the bar, and finding it desirable to have a license as an attorney, he was admitted to practice both in the Illinois Courts, and the United States Courts.

He was well known as a worker in the cause of education, including the Sabbath School. He was also interested in the agricultural societies, and all else that contributed to the welfare of his adopted State. He had gained his education

in the schools of Central New York. He early developed a fondness for teaching. He was led to introduce the "System of Graded Schools" in Illinois, from his own practical and sensible plans of instruction, although he had never heard of such schools.

He first came to Illinois in 1838, settling first at Shawneetown. In the Fall of 1839, the credit of the State became utterly exhausted. It was at this time, my Grandfather built himself a log house, on lands which he had purchased, near the site of the present Village of Tamaroa.

On one side of the house, were woods. This site, as I remember hearing it told, was about a mile, or mile and a half, northeast of the present house. In every direction was the broad prairie. Here, he opened a boarding school with one pupil, in 1839. He had endorsed for friends, who were ruined in the financial crisis of that year, so his property all went to pay their debts.

By the help of friends, he succeeded in erecting a more commodious house, also of log. The east part was two stories, and was used by the family and some boarding pupils. The west part, long and low, was used for school rooms. The Boarding School was a grand success, and many of our early prominent citizens were numbered among its students. Tuition was paid either with cash, if they could afford it, or by produce, or whatever they could pay. I know my brother kept for a long time, a receipt for a saddle of venison, as part tuition. I am sorry to say this receipt became lost. In 1851, my Grandfather Roots, took charge of the surveys of the second division

of the Illinois Central Railroad. He subsequently acted as land agent and attorney for the railroad company. Having paid all the claims for which he had become liable, and having secured a competency, by his industry, energy and prudent investments, he resigned his connection with the railroad company, in 1856.

During his employment by the Illinois Central Railroad, he made several trips from his home in Southern Illinois to Chicago, a distance of 300 miles, on horseback. It was through his influence, that the curve in the Illinois Central Railroad was made, north of Sunfield, to take it by Locust Hill.

Grandfather Roots was a strong anti-slavery speaker, and during the Civil War, the farm was used as an underground railway. Later, some of these slaves returned to Locust Hill, and from what my Mother has told me, built cabins and lived across the road, just south of the present house. When the present house was built, about Civil War times, ten acres were laid out and landscaped with unusual trees, as well as native ones. Some of the colored families remained on the place, as late as my brother Logan's day, but none after my time.

East of the present site is a colored burial ground, where a few, who died there, were buried. The others gradually went other places. The last one, Wiley Goode, who was given the credit of saving my brother Logan's life, was taken by my father, J.C. Kimzey, to Springfield, Illinois, where he found him a very good job and home. One of the grandest monuments to the memory of B.G.Roots, is the free school system of Illinois. As I remarked before, he was one of the

champions in establishing this system. He was also one of the first and most earnest promoters of the Normal University at Normal, Illinois. He was influential in establishing the Southern Illinois Normal at Carbondale. He was also an indefatigable worker for the State Industrial University at Champaign, Illinois. On the organization of the Illinois State Board of Education, he was soon elected President, and continued to hold this office until the weight of his years and its responsibilities constrained him to decline re-election. He continued, a member of the board, however, until his death.

Locust Hill was a stock farm. Many beautiful horses, percheons and standard bred saddle horses, and others, including Shetlands. Registered J.J. C. Jersey Cattle, Poland and Berkshire hogs were also raised there.

Going back to the early days, before closing, I might add a few things I remember being told. In the earliest days, the Indians would pass through, and the folks would not know they were about until my Grandmother would see a shadow and feel a presence, and would look up and see an Indian standing in the door way. Another story I have heard many times, was the prairie chickens were so numerous that on the corner a half mile west, known as the old Robert Heape corner, they would roost in such numbers that a rail fence would sometimes be broken. This I do not relate as a fact, but a story often heard as a child.

Back to my Grandfather, again. He believed in equal and exact justice for all. When the name "Abolitionist" was a term of reproach in Illinois, he was not afraid to espouse the

cause of the colored man and to insist that he should receive all the rights which the law of the land vouch safed him.

It is good to know that the Roots and Kimzey farm with its early history and happy memories is now owned by the Browning Robinson's, who have done much to improve the land, the house, and the buildings, and that it will not be a place of decay and ruin.

This is not history of the farm, but as a historical society, thought you might be interested in it. Anna, Illinois was quite a fashion center in those days, and my Grandmother used to ride horse back to Anna, to buy her new hats.

Also in the early days, the trip to St. Louis was made by wagon. The trip would be planned for and several wagons would go together to help each other in case of trouble. There was a place in the Okaw River where they would ford across and more than once my Mother was lashed to the wagon as a little girl to be sure she would not be washed off the wagon in crossing.

Another story pertains to the building of the railroad through here. There was so much malaria that my Grandfather would carry calomel and quinine with him, along with some little brass scales to weigh it out on and give to the men, when near the farm. So many of the men came down with it, my Mother was drafted in, one day to drive the stake wagon. She was then only a girl. The wagon carried the stakes and was drawn by oxen. By driving the wagon that day the work could go on. For many years after, even since my recollection, the trains would stop at the farm.

Robinson, Illinois
Dec. - 16 - 1956

Perry County Historical Society,

Du Quoin, Ill.

Dear Sirs:

Recently I received a clipping from the Du Quoin Evening Call regarding a visit the Society had made to the Roots & Kimzey Farm near Tamaroa, Illinois, and that story brought pleasant memories back to me as I was born just ½ mile south of the Farm Home in February 1878.

B.G.Roots, Mrs. Kimzey's father, built the home several years ago and it was considered to be the finest home in Southern Illinois. The home is situated in a large yard of about 20 acres of ground and when I was a boy the yard contained a tree of every kind that could be grown in Southern Illinois.

B.G.Roots was a noted Educator and taught school for several years. I remember him so well as he taught the country school when I was in the 3rd grade. Mr. Roots was instrumental in securing the S.I.N.U. at Carbondale,Ill. and also served as Supt. of Schools in Perry County. About the year 1850-54 when the Illinois Central Railroad was built, Mr. Roots persuaded the surveyors to change the location so it would pass near his home, so they made the curve of the R.R. at Sunfield,Ill. Otherwise the R.R. would have missed the farm entirely. During the Civil War, Mr. Roots helped over 100 slaves who were on their way to Canada and Freedom, and this was known as the Underground Railroad. I have heard

Mr. Roots tell some of the hardships that these slaves had to endure to make the trip as they could not get very much clothing or food on the trip.

I have been wondering if the Old Building is still standing where he hid the slaves. I have been in it many times.

J.C.Kimzey was a Soldier in the Civil War and lost an eye in the Battle of Lookout Mountain and he surely was a fine Gentleman, a friend to everyone. There were 5 children in the Kimzey family, Walter, Dwight, Belle, Logan and Mrs. Rosamond Forester. All the rest of the family are deceased. I see the article regarding Mr. John Neville working on the farm, and I also helped with the work at times, especially at harvest time.

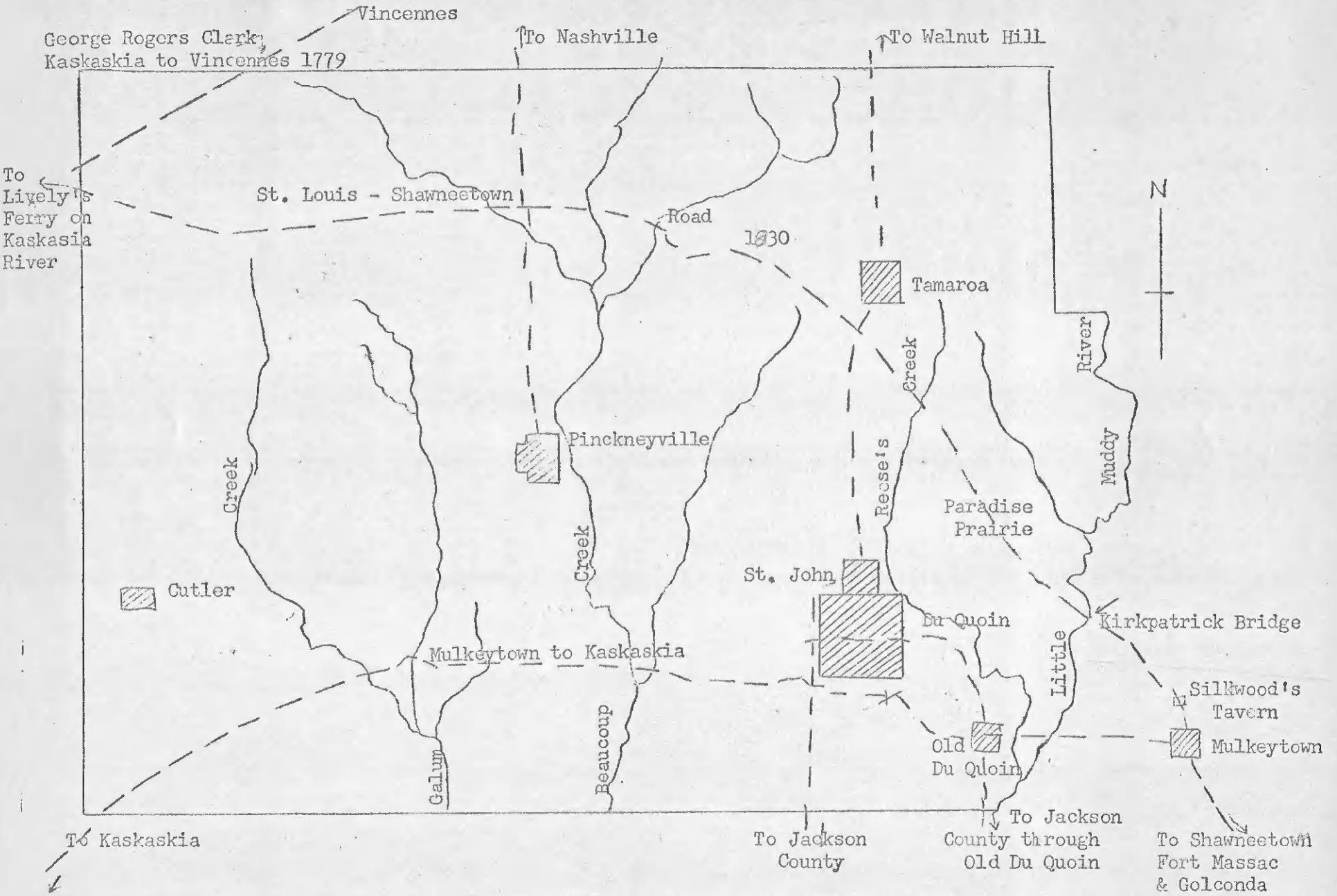
B.G.Roots the father of Mrs. Kimzey also was the father of 2 sons, who built and operated the First National Bank in Little Rock, Arkansas. His brother P.K.Roots was struck with an Illinois Central passenger train, and killed. I thought maybe I could give some information that would help them. You can dispose of this in any way you care to. You can print it or throw it in the waste basket. I wish your Society the best of success.

Respectfully yours,

Arthur C.Lee

My Address:
605 West Walnut St.,
Robinson,Illinois

P.S. If you print this please send me a copy.



PERRY COUNTY - SHOWING EARLY TRAVELWAYS Scale 1" - Approx. 3 miles

This map put in later by me.
GJS